

A 17 DEC 56

C.R.

L. H. H.
DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH
OF THE DISTRICT, 1955.



L. SPENCER STEPHENS, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
R. F. FRY, M.I.San.E., M.R.S.I., A.M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A.

Chairman of the Council :
W. E. RICHARDSON, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :
S. F. PACKMAN, ESQ.

Members of the Housing and General Purposes Committee

Chairman : L. R. HYDE, ESQ., M.B.E.

Vice-Chairman : S. T. GITTINS, ESQ.

MESSRS. C. S. ANTON, A. W. BUDD, C. D. COOPER, R. K. GEORGE, SIR HAROLD GLOVER, MESSRS. PETER HARRIS, J. R. POINTER, S. E. POWICK. J. WILLIAMSON, D. BROOKES, W. E. RICHARDSON, S. F. PACKMAN.

Co-opted members for advice on housing :
MRS. D. L. PARKER AND MRS. B. L. BIRCH.

Health Officers of the Council :

L. SPENCER STEPHENS, M.B., CH.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H., *Medical Officer of Health.*

R. F. FRY, M.I.SAN.E., M.R.S.I., A.M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A., *Engineer and Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

D. G. CARTER, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., *Sanitary Inspector, Deputy Engineer and Surveyor.*

J. D. HOPGOOD, M.R.S.I., *Additional Sanitary Inspector and Technical Assistant.*

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*With the Compliments of
The Medical Officer of Health*

COUNCIL OFFICES,
OMBERSLEY STREET,
DROITWICH, WORCS.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29169318>

RURAL DISTRICT OF DROITWICH.

Annual Report for the Year 1955.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
RURAL DISTRICT OFFICES,
DROITWICH.

August, 1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Statistical Report on the health conditions of the Rural District during 1955. Detailed information is available under the appropriate sections and I only intend here to review briefly certain important topics.

The completion of the Crowle Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme was the biggest achievement of the year. Unfortunately, owing to the failure of a Private builder to develop a housing site in the village, fewer properties were available for connection to the sewer than was anticipated. The Council, however, decided to pursue a bold policy and offer every inducement to householders to connect to the sewer. A fifty per cent grant is being offered for closet conversions, and it is hoped that the Ministry will approve the laying of free extensions to the boundary of the owners' property. A flat rate of £5 (plus re-instatement costs) for water connections is an added inducement. This will do much to encourage the installation of proper internal sanitation and improve standards of communal hygiene. It is hoped that the policy will be extended to other parts of the Rural District.

With most of the Major Sewage and Water Supply Schemes for the larger villages complete, the main problem which faces the Council in the future is Housing. A review of the applications for Council Houses was made at the end of the Year, and preliminary details are available as a result of the completion of the Slum Clearance Survey (P.16). The number of applicants remaining on the Housing List amounts to 285, of which only 70 reside outside the district. The Survey shows that at least 197 properties are unfit for human habitation, and a further 441 are in need of major repairs. At least 482 houses are required immediately therefore, and there is a grave likelihood that many of those houses in need of repair will be totally unfit for habitation in ten years time. A Building programme of thirty-five houses a year has been achieved by the Council in the ten years since the end of the War. This is a praiseworthy achievement, and should be continued, yet there seems to be considerable doubt as to whether a very much reduced rate of building will be possible. The Government have already indicated that Local Authorities should make their

Housing Revenue Account self-supporting so that no burden falls upon the ratepayer. This is virtually achieved by the introduction of a Differential Rents Scheme which is being extended to cover the whole District. The Housing Subsidies Act 1956, provides every inducement to build houses for slum clearance and the £22 subsidy also applies to hutted camps. Although it is considered that certain persons will not be able to afford the rents which will be fixed for such houses, I cannot see why, with the aid of the subsidy a very low minimum rent should not be possible. It is a recognised fact that the National Assistance Board will now guarantee this Minimum rent for those persons in need, and particularly for elderly persons. Every Housing Authority has a duty to provide the houses which are needed so badly, and shoulder the responsibilities which private landlords have for many years been unwilling to accept.

This problem is of the greatest importance in view of the fact that Private housing development may be considerably restricted by the Ministry of Town and Country Planning's proposals for a Green Belt round Birmingham. The County Planning Authority have also taken a firm stand with respect to widescale development on the outskirts of Worcester City, and it seems likely that only very limited infilling in certain villages will be permitted in the future. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have now abolished all restrictions on the number of Council Houses which may be built and it seems unlikely that the Planning Authority would be able to refuse any reasonable application for development by the Council.

One of the first sites I should like to see cleared is the requisitioned Hutted Camp at Elmley Lovett. Considerable publicity has already been given to the appalling conditions under which one family were living last winter, and fortunately it has been possible to move them, but there are still seven families there. I think that the site when cleared could be converted most economically into a publicly owned Caravan Site for permanent residents. This would require careful planning and only caravans of a certain standard should be allowed on. It would then be possible to direct many of the scattered temporary dwellings found all over the district to this site, and take more satisfactory Enforcement proceedings against those person who failed to comply with the request. The other two privately owned caravan sites used for permanent occupation are full most of the year round.

A considerable sanitary problem arises during the holiday season on the sites for temporary dwelling at Holt Fleet. This is aggravated by an influx of visitors at week-ends, and the erection of tents close to the river. Scavengers have to be employed to clear litter and the Council's refuse vehicle has to visit regularly. Plans have now been submitted for the erection of sanitary accommodation on three of the sites and it is hoped that these provisions will be adequate.

Noteable progress was made in the battle against Tuberculosis when the Principal School Medical Officer introduced his scheme for the B.C.G. Vaccination of School Children throughout the County. The Bacillus of Calmette and Guerin is an attenuated form of the

organism which although harmless, gives good protection against the disease. The parents of all thirteen-year-old school children were sent invitations and 83 per cent accepted. All suitable cases were vaccinated and this will henceforth be an annual event. Parents are well advised to have their children protected at this age, if necessary, as otherwise they are particularly open to infection in the workshop and office.

May I thank the Sanitary Inspectors and Clerical Staff of the Surveyors Department for their co-operation and you, Mr. Chairman for the kind consideration I have received at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	....	....	....	....	....	51,453
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to						
Rate Books	....	....	....	....	....	4,128
Rateable Value (December 31st, 1955)	....	....	....	....	....	£79,478
Sum presented by one penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	£319
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1955)						13,280
<i>Live Births.</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	.... 106	.... 86	.... 192
Illegitimate	....	....	....	.... 5	.... 4	.... 9
Crude birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population						15.1
Standardised birth-rate per 1,000 estimated						
population	....	....	....	....	....	16.9
Birth-rate for England and Wales	....	....	....	....	....	15.0
<i>Still Births.</i>				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	.... 1	.... 3	.... 4
Illegitimate	....	....	....	.... —	.... —	.... —
Still birth-rate per 1,000—Total live and still births						19.5
Still birth-rate for England and Wales	....	....	....	....	....	23.1
<i>Deaths</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
From all causes	....	....	....	.... 67	.... 73	.... 140
Crude death-rate per 1,000 estimated population						10.5
Standardised death-rate per 1,000 estimated						
population	....	....	....	....	....	9.7
Death-rate for England and Wales	....	....	....	....	....	11.7
<i>Deaths of Infants under One year of age.</i>				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	.... 5	.... 1	.... 6
Illegitimate	....	....	....	.... —	.... —	.... —
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						29.8
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales						24.9
<i>Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	.... 4	.... —	.... 4
Illegitimate	....	....	....	.... —	.... —	.... —
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births.						19.9
Neonatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales						17.3

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	16
Coronary Disease, Angina	10	3
Hypertension with heart disease	1	4
Other heart disease	15	17
Other circulatory disease	1	4
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	4	3
Bronchitis	4	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	6
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
All other accidents	—	1
Suicide	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	67	73
	—	—

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) *Ambulance Service.*

This service is provided by the County Council. Ambulance stations which serve the Droitwich Rural District are situated at Worcester, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Redditch. The list below shows the parishes covered by each ambulance station for non-emergency cases. In all cases of emergency the ambulance should be summoned in the usual way—that is, by asking the Telephone operator for “Ambulance” or by dialling “999.”

Bromsgrove Ambulance Station

Upton Warren Northern part of Parish of Dodderhill.

Kidderminster Ambulance Station.

Hartlebury.

Redditch Ambulance Station

Stock and Bradley.

Worcester Ambulance Station.

Elmley Lovett	Hanbury	Salwarpe
Elmbridge	Himbleton	Tibberton
Hampton Lovett	Hindlip	Upton Warren
Doverdale	Huddington	Warndon
North Claines	Martin Hussingtree	Westwood
Crowle	Oddingley	
Hadzor	Ombersley	

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances which are stationed at the isolation hospitals. The hospital car service, manned in most cases by volunteers is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

(b) *Hospitals.*

The district is served by general hospitals situated in Worcester, Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and Birmingham.

The isolation hospital, which serves the area is situated at Newtown, Worcester.

Maternity hospitals which serve the district are situated at Stourport, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

Sanatoria for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick and Worcester.

(c) *Home Nursing and Health Visiting.*

This service is provided by the County Council, and in most instances in the Rural District this work is done by the District Nurse-Midwife, who is also the Health Visitor. The following nurses are working the Rural District :—

Nurse Wilson, Nurse's House, Fernhill Heath. *Telephone No.* Fernhill Heath 304.
 Nurse Powell, Shaw Lane, Stoke Works. *Telephone No.* Bromsgrove 2659.
 Nurse Adler, Rose Cottage, Cutnall Green. *Telephone No.* Cutnall Green 233.
 Nurse Fountain, 7 Council House, Old Turnpike Road, Crowle. *Telephone No.* Upton Snodsbury 259.
 Nurse Powell, 14 Appletree Walk, Ombersley. *Telephone No.* Ombersley 341.
 Nurse Dudley, 27 Waresley Court Road, Hartlebury. *Telephone No.* Hartlebury 200.

(d) *Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children.*
 The district is served by the following Clinics :—

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Shirehall, Worcester. Open 1st and 3rd Saturday at 10.0 a.m.
 Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich. Open on 2nd and 4th Thursdays in each month at 2.0 p.m.
 Recreation Road, Bromsgrove. Open every Monday at 10.0 a.m.
 Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Open every Tuesday at 1.30 p.m.
 Coventry Street, Kidderminster. Open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

Shirehall, Worcester. Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 10.0 a.m.
 Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich. Open every Tuesday at 2.0 p.m.
 Memorial Hall, Ombersley. Open on 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
 Parish Hall, Hartlebury. Open on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
 Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Open on 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.
 Village Hall, Hanbury. Open on 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
 Village Hall, Crowle. Open on 4th Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
 Village Hall, Cutnall Green. Open on 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
 The Memorial Hall, Fernhill Heath. Open on 2nd Friday in the month at 2.0 p.m.

(e) *Vaccination and Immunisation.*

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria is carried out free of charge at any of the County Council's Clinics or by the patient's own doctor.

During 1955 the following inoculations were done :—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	228
Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	182

VACCINATION.

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	134
Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year								11

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47, AND AMENDMENT ACT, 1951.

These sections place on district medical officers of health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of people who are in need of care and attention.

The cases are most frequently brought to the notice of the medical officer of health by the Welfare Officers of the County Council or by private doctors.

No cases were dealt with by Statutory Action during the year, but a number of cases were dealt with informally.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) PIPED SUPPLIES.

The Rural District is divided so that 30,278 acres fall within the Statutory area of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company and 20,165 acres are served directly by the Droitwich Rural District Council

MAINS EXTENSIONS DURING THE YEAR.

The following work was carried out during 1955 :—

Stock and Bradley. The East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. laid a branch main off the Feckenham supply to Bradley Green and thence to Stock and Bradley. Unfortunately, part of the main through Bradley village runs along the boundary with Evesham Rural District and in order to benefit consumers in that District where there appeared to be a few more houses, the main was laid on their side of the road. The properties in Droitwich Rural District were then served by longer connections across the road which entailed heavier re-instatement costs. These costs were considered to be in excess of those charged by the Council for similar work and a complaint was made to the Company. Subsequently, an appeal was made to the Minister to arbitrate in the dispute. The Company have now extended the main to Earls Common.

Work was also commenced on extensions to Sale Green by the direct labour organisation, over 2,000 yards of main being laid. Consideration has also been given to a supply for Himbleton, where it is hoped to erect 8 Council Houses.

Hartlebury Major Scheme. This work is being carried out by direct labour and considerable progress was made during the year. Some 4,050 yards of 6inch, 4inch and 3inch C.I. main were laid to properties in the village, along Inn Lane, down the Worcester Road towards Torton and up Quarry Bank to the new Council Houses on the Waresley Court Estate. Although much of the property on this Estate is supplied by a Private Water undertaker, steps are being taken to see that an adequate supply will be available in this area in the future, and extensions are possible to Crossway Green and Chadwick.

Fernhill Heath and Hindlip. Negotiations continued with Worcester City for a more adequate supply to this area from their mains. A new agreement was finally entered into on the grounds that this Council would accept a minimum consumption of 120,000 gallons a day. The revised agreement included (a) the provision of a new booster station at Ombersley Road ; (b) the laying of a larger trunk main from Barbourne Road through Checketts Lane to couple into the existing main in Droitwich Road ; (c) Connections at Hindlip Lodge for a supply to Hindlip Hall where a storage reservoir would be constructed by the County Council, and at the bottom of Station Road for a supply to Ladywood and Salwarpe.

Crowle. One of the two pumps in operation at this borehole was replaced, as it was shipping sand and showed signs of excessive wear.

Ombersley. There was some difficulty in meeting the demand from this borehole during the summer months due to inadequate storage capacity. The average daily consumption in the village now amounts to some 7,000 gallons, and the 9,000 gallons Storage Tank has been supplemented by one of 10,000 gallons capacity.

Council Houses, Lineholt and Holt Fleet. A windmill operated pump supplying twelve pre-war Council Houses at Lineholt is being replaced by an electric submersible pump and in order to do this the well must be deepened by means of a 6 inch borehole in the bottom. Electrical pumping equipment has also been installed at a 95 feet well supplying six Council Houses on Dough Bank, Holt Fleet.

(b) PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

A number of requests were made for the chemical and bacteriological examination of private water supplies. The results of which are shown below. Wherever possible repairs were carried out to the wells to improve the supply if unfit. Otherwise, householders were told to boil all their water before drinking.

	Address.	Source of Supply.	Result.
“ Sundown,” Station Road, Martin			
Hussingtree	Well	Unfit.
“ Hawthorne,” Oldfield Lane, Ombersley			
Hawford Lodge, Bevere	Well	Unfit
“ Hillcrest,” Westwood Park	Well	Unfit
Broadfield Cottage, Tibberton	Well	Fit
“ Harlington,” Pershore Lane, Martin			
Hussingtree	Well	Unfit

<i>Address</i>	<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>Result</i>
Keeper's Cottage, Hanbury Hall	Well	Fit
Live and Let Live Inn, Cutnall Green	Well	Unfit
Hadzor Rectory, Hadzor.	Underground	
	Storage Tank	Unfit
Fern Cottages, Fernhill Heath	(Tap Water)	Unfit
Southall Cottage, Hadley	Well	Unfit
Rectory Cottage, Dodderhill Common	Well	Unfit
Loggerheads, Hanbury	Well	Unfit
St. Elmo, Martin Hussingtree	Well	Unfit
Hardcastle Villas, Hartlebury	Well	Fit
Hazelwood Cottage, Hadzor	Well	Fit
Siwicki, Chadwick Bank	Well	Unfit
House, Cow Lane, Sytchampton	Well	Fit
Rose Cottage, Wychbold	Well	Unfit
Manor Farm, Hadzor	Well	Unfit
The Manor, Dunhampstead	Well	Unfit
"Magpie," Mustow Green	Well	Fit
The Bakery, Cutnall Green	Well	Unfit
The New Inn, Hanbury	Well	Fit
Cutnall Green School	Well	Unfit
Connolley, Foredraught Lane, Tibberton	Well	Unfit
Church Cottage, Salwarpe	Well	Unfit
Bleak House, Crowle	Well	Unfit
House, Holt Fleet Road, Ombersley	(Tap Water)	Fit.
Vicarage Flat, Crowle	(Borehole)	Fit
Cottage, Broad Common, Elmbridge	Well	Unfit
Hulls Farm, Oddingley	(New Borehole)	Fit
Cottage, Purshall Green Common, Elmbridge	Well	Unfit
Bungalow, Dodd's Lane, Upton Warren	Well	Unfit
Wynards, Lineholt, Ombersley	Well	Unfit
House, Himbleton	(New Well)	Unfit
Signal Box, Oddingley	Well	Unfit
Cutnall Green, Borehole	Borehole	Fit
Westfields Farm, Hanbury Wharf	Well	Fit

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Crowle. Work on this Scheme commenced in September, 1954 and by the beginning of 1955 some 500 yards of Main Outfall Sewer had been laid along Froxmere Court Road to the site for the Disposal Works. Good progress was made with the laying of mains through the centre of the Village and also in the direction of Crowle Green and down Old Turnpike Road. Owing to insufficient fall to the North of the village an Ejector Station had to be constructed just beyond the Council Houses in that vicinity and a main sewer taken across in the direction of Lower Crowle to the works.

The Disposal Works is situated on a piece of land close to the Bow Brook, and fairly close to the main road leading to Froxmere Court. Again, difficulty with levels necessitated the laying of some 200 yards of 12inch C.I. Inlet Sewer on brick piers, to gain a height of 5ft. 6in. at the commencement of the works. The Sewage undergoes preliminary screening in a main detritus chamber and then passes along a central detritus channel to twin sedimentation tanks. Storm water is diverted over the top of this central channel in times of heavy flow to a Storm Water Tank from which more than 6 times the Dry Weather Flow may be discharged down a 9inch earthenware pipe direct into the brook. Sedimentation is on the horizontal flow principle and the siphonic dosing chamber feeds one large percolating filter through quadruple arms. Twin humus tanks deal with the final settlement of organic matter, but a pump well is provided for the recirculation of filtered effluent or sludge liquor. Four sludge drying beds are available, which should be quite adequate.

Unfortunately, a proposed building site has not been developed as was anticipated, and few householders have as yet connected their properties to the Sewer. The Council Houses are being connected, however, and other drainage problems are being settled with local farmers.

Fernhill Heath. At the end of 1954 a routine sample of sewage effluent taken by the Fisheries and Pollution Prevention Department of the Severn River Board showed that although considerable purification was being effected by the treatment plant, there was an excess of suspended matter present. This may have been due to irregular or excessively heavy dosage of the percolating filter due to old filter arms. A new set of sprinkler arms were fitted to both filters and certainly the last two samples taken have been quite satisfactory. That taken on 22nd November, 1955, is shown below :—

ANALYST'S REPORT.

	<i>Parts per million.</i>					
Suspended Solids	27
Ash	4 (—15%)
Biochemical Oxygen demand						
(5 days at 20° C—dilution 1/10)	11.3
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours—settled	11.3
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours—shaken	14.0
Free Ammonia as Nitrogen....	4.0
Nitrate as Nitrogen	43.0
pH	7.12
Alkalinity to Methyl Orange	115
Chloride as Chlorine	123

General Comments—Satisfactory.

(Signed) K. R. PRICE, F.R.I.C.

Hartlebury. Several leaking joints on the rising main from the Pumping Station at Wilden to Stourport caused some difficulty during the Year, but repairs are being carried out on sections of the main at convenient times and the problem is being overcome.

Ombersley. This Disposal Works has continued to operate satisfactorily during the year. The problem of adequate maintenance has not been easy however, as responsibility for the work had to be given to the Sewage Works Superintendent at Fernhill Heath, who also supervises the Crowle Works. Consideration has **not** been given to forming a more mobile team who can attend to the smaller Council House sewage plants at Hanbury, Cutnall Green, Tibberton and Wychbold also.

Wychbold. Approval was given by the Minister to a start being made on the Dodderhill Sewage Scheme late in the year, and contract documents were prepared, but no work was possible.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This service covers the whole district, a weekly collection being given to the village areas and a three-weekly collection elsewhere. The number of loads of refuse collected during the year amounted to 1,640 each of approximately 4 tons so that a total weight of 6,560 tons was carried.

All tipping is carried at the Council's own Tip at Briar Hill Coppice, Westwood, which being one of the most central points in the District, cuts down Transport costs. Unfortunately, the tip caught fire during the summer, and despite the use of a bulldozer, it was impossible to put it out completely. A new area was selected for Tipping however, and a considerable amount of cover material used over the burnt out areas, so that eventually they were in a better condition than previously. Very little space is left for tipping now, but negotiations were entered into with the owners for the remainder of the Coppice which will of course have to be cleared of trees before it can be used for the purpose.

Number of Houses for refuse collection....	....	....	....	4017
Number of Houses for weekly collection	....	....	....	2269
Number or Houses for three-weekly collection	...	...	...	1748

SALVAGE TOTAL 1955 :

40 Tons 10 cwt. 1 qtr—Value : £306 18s. 9d.

COSTS.				1955-56	1954-55.
				£	£
Wages and National Insurance	....			5249	4102
Travelling	....			14	16
Clothing and Toilet Requisites	....			32	37
Implements and Tools	....			35	21
Vehicles : EUY 173	....			97	52
JUY 994	....			543	458
JUY 995	....			569	460
KWP 390	....			725	602
Depot Expenses	....			50	71
Maintenance of Tips	....			314	60
Insurance	....			—	—
Transporting Employees :					
Expenses	....	153			
Income	....	32			
		—		121	90
Trade Refuse Charges	....		71		14
Salvage —Income	....	336			
Expenses	....	260			
		—	76		2
				7749	5974
				— 147	— 16
Net Cost of Service	....			7602	5958

4. RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employs a full-time Rodent Operative who is responsible for the routine inspection of all premises within the district and deals with infestations in non-agricultural premises. Periodic inspections are also carried out of the Council's own property, sewage disposal works and refuse tips, treatment being effected when and where necessary. The following table shows the work carried out during the year :—

INFESTATION OF PREMISES.

	Type of Property				Agricultural.
	Non- Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (includ. Council Houses)	All other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1) (2)& (3) (4)	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	12	4311	209	4522	353
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of (a) Notification and (b) Survey under the Act and (c) otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose), during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1956	(a) Nil	24	5	32	3
	(b) 12	915	108	1035	141
	(c) Nil	9	9	18	Nil.
3. Total inspections (including re-inspections)	153	1584	167	1904	163
4. Number of properties inspected(see SectionII) which were found to be infested by :— (a) Rats (b) Mice	(a) Major 3.	9	7	19	5
	Minor 1	101	2	104	Nil
	(b) Major Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Minor Nil	27	4	31	Nil
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect.4) treated by the Local Authority	4	137	13	154	Nil
6. Total treatments carried out—including retreatments	23	137	13	173	Nil
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 :					
(a) Treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Structural Work	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Legal Proceedings	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10 Number of "Block " control schemes carried out	—	—	1	—	—

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

New Housing.

A total of 53 new houses were completed during 1955. Twenty-nine were erected by Private Enterprise, and twenty-four by the Council. The latter were mainly houses included in schemes at Hartlebury and Fernhill Heath which had not been completed during the previous year.

<i>Situation.</i>		<i>Type</i>	<i>No. of Houses.</i>
Fernhill Heath (Cresswell Close)	3	Bedroomed	10
Hartlebury (Woodbury Close)	3	Bedroomed	12
Tibberton (Hillside)	2	Bedroomed	1
	3	Bedroomed	1
			—
Total			—24
			—

HOUSING ACT, 1936 AND HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

A.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

1. (a) Total number of houses inspected for routine defects
(under Public Health or Housing Acts) 102
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 161
2. (a) Number of houses, not included in (1) above, which
were inspected as a result of a survey under the
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 498
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 498
3. Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or
injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 156
4. Number of houses found to be in need of repair 193

B.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit as a result
of informal action 99

C.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

1. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

- (a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were
served requiring repairs Nil
- (b) Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal
notices :—
 - (i) By owners Nil
 - (ii) By local authority in default of owners Nil

2. PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.
 - (a) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2
 - (b) Number of houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (i) By owners 2
 - (ii) By local authority in default of owners Nil
3. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION II OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.
 - (a) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1
 - (b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
4. PROCEEDINGS UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ACT) 1953 :
 - (a) Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
 - (b) Number of houses subject to Closing Order procedure, where the Order was revoked and a Demolition Order made Nil

HOUSING ACTS, 1949—Improvement Grants.

No. of Applications received during 1955	....	46
No. of Applications approved during 1955	....	39
No. of Dwelling Houses involved	....	49
No. o Applications refused or withdrawn	....	3
Total Amount of Work Grant Aided during 1955	....	£38,874
during 1954	....	£6,441
Total Amount of Grant approved during 1955	....	£12,682
during 1954	....	£2,692
Average Amount of Grant per house	....	£260

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954—Slum Clearance.

In view of the obligation placed on Local Authorities by this Act, to submit proposals for dealing with all the houses within their District which appeared to be unfit for human habitation, a complete Survey was carried out by the Staff of the Department. Although the work was not completed in 1955, final details were available early in 1956.

A complete revision of the Housing Lists was made shortly after, and together these figures give an indication of the needs of the district. There are also a considerable number of scattered moveable dwellings in the District whose needs are not entirely satisfied by the permanent sites available and approved by the Planning Authority.

DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES AND ESTIMATED SLUM
CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Popl'n Census 1951</i>	<i>Applications</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Slum Clearance</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
		<i>Local</i>	<i>Outside District</i>			
Dodderhill	1207	25	27	52	18	70
Hartlebury	2349	41	6	47	47	94
Omersley	2130	70	4	74	34	108
North Claines)	2783	48	25	73	14)	92
Hindlip)	219				1) 19	
Martin Hussingtree)	216				4)	
Elmbridge)	321	13	2	15	5)	29
Hampton Lovett)	240				1) 14	
Elmley Lovett)	355				8)	
Himbleton)	323	10	3	13	6)	47
Hanbury)	804				25) 34	
Stock and Bradley)	203				3)	
Crowle & Sale Green)	502	8	3	11	8)	25
Tibberton)	262				3) 14	
Oddingley)	169				3)	
Upton Warren	254	—	—	—	2	2
Doverdale	100	—	—	—	2	2
Huddington	80	—	—	—	3	3
Warndon	108	—	—	—	6	6
Hadzor	194	—	—	—	—	—
Salwarpe	270	—	—	—	4	4
	13089	215	70		197	482

- NOTES :** 1. Applications for Council Houses were revised in March, 1956.
2. Slum clearance requirements are based on the present survey now complete.
3. It is suggested for the purposes of acquiring housing sites that the following parishes could be grouped.
- (i) North Claines, Hindlip and Martin Hussingtree.
 - (ii) Elmbridge, Hampton Lovett and Elmley Lovett.
 - (iii) Himbleton, Hanbury and Stock and Bradley.
 - (iv) Crowle, Sale Green, Tibberton and Oddingley.

SITES PERMITTED FOR GENUINE TRAILER CARAVANS.

The following is a list of the Caravan Sites for which approval has been granted by the County Planning Authority within Droitwich Rural District.

<i>Facilities.</i>	<i>Pitches.</i>
<i>Mutton Hall, Boreley</i> , on the east bank of the Severn opposite the Lenchford Hotel.	
(E.R.) Operator—Mr. Stone. No permanent occupation. <i>Mill House, Hawford</i> , 4 miles north of Worcester on Ombersley Road.	12
(E.B.R.) Operator—Mr. Walker. No permanent occupation. <i>Winnal Farm</i> , on east bank of the Severn near Stourport.	12
(C.R.) Operator—Mr. Butler. No permanent occupation <i>Dunhampton</i> , at rear of Robert's Garage on main Kidderminster Road	32
(B.E.L.R.C.) Operator—Mr. H. Roberts. No permanent occupation <i>Bricks Farm, Holt Fleet</i> , on right side of main Road approaching bridge from Ombersley.	20
(B.R.E.) Operator—Mrs. Brick. No permanent occupation. <i>Wharf Hotel, Holt Fleet</i> , on left side of main Road approaching bridge from Ombersley.	97
Operator—Messrs. Flower and Sons, Stratford-on-Avon. No permanent occupation <i>Eagle and Sun Hotel</i> , Hanbury Wharf, Nr. Droitwich.	38
(B.E.R.C.) Operator—Mr. Hedley. Residential Site. <i>Chateau Impney</i> , on main Birmingham—Worcester Road, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile North of Droitwich, situated within the hotel grounds.	15
(B.C.D.L.R.W.) Operator—Chateau Impney. Residential Site	32
	<hr/>
	Total 258
	<hr/>

FACILITIES :—

- B. Convenient Bus Service.
- C. Car parking arrangements on Site.
- D. Sewage disposal facilities on Site.
- E. Electricity on Site.
- L.—Sanitary block on Site.
- R.—Residential caretaker/owner on Site.
- S.—Shop on Site.
- W.—Mains water on Site.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.

The following table shows the work carried out in factories in the Rural District during the year.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. *Inspection for purposes of provision as to health.*

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>M/c. line No.</i> (2)	<i>Number of Register</i> (3)	<i>Number of</i>		
			<i>Inspection</i> (4)	<i>Written Notices</i> (5)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (6)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	10	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority	2	40	40	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	47	63	—	—
Total		88	113	Nil	Nil

2. *Cases in which Defects were found.*

<i>Particulars</i> (1)	<i>M/c. line</i> (2)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number in cases in which pros- ecution in- stituted</i> (7)
		<i>Found</i> (3)	<i>Remed'd</i> (4)	<i>Referred H.M. Inspect</i> (5)	<i>H.M. Inspect</i> (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)						
(a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	2	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including expenses relating to Out-work)	12	—	—	—	—	—
Total		2	2	—	2	—

3. After a thorough survey of Cadbury's Bros. factory at Blackpole, a detailed Certificate of means of escape in case of fire was issued.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection.

Routine Inspection of all animals slaughtered at Omberley Slaughter House was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the Year. The amount of meat dealt with is shown below. Very little disease was discovered.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Includ- ing Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	61	1	474	136
Number inspected	61	1	474	136
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	6	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	6.55%	—	1.26 %	0.73%
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.64%	—	—	2.2% 3.7
Cysticercosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Condemnation of Unfit Food.

The following food mainly meat, was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

- 2 Pigs—Generalised Tuberculosis.
- 1 Pig—Swine Fever.
- 1 Pig's Head—Localised Tuberculosis.
- 1 Pig's Liver—Localised Tuberculosis.
- 1 Set of Pig's Lungs—Localised Tuberculosis.
- 1 Beast's pleura for Pleurisy.
- 1 Sheep's Liver—Multiple Abscesses.
- 6lbs. Beef—Localised Tuberculosis.
- 3 Sheep's Liver—Cirrhosis.
- ½lb. Sheep's Liver—Abscess.
- 2lbs. Beast's Liver—Flukes.
- Beast's Liver—Cirrhosis.
- 1 Sheep's Liver—Strongylus rufescens.
- 1 Beast's Liver—Multiple Abscesses.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the occurrence of infectious disease in parishes :—

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	AcutePneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Dysentery	Meningococcal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Food Poisoning	Polio- myelitis
Cutnall Green ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dodderhill ...	—	9	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Elmley Lovett ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Elmbridge ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampton Lovett ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hanbury ...	1	21	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hartlebury ...	2	30	25	3	1	—	1	—	—	—
Himbleton ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hindlip ...	1	4	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Martin Hussingtree ...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
North Claines ...	2	25	1	1	1	1	—	21	2	1
Ombersley ...	—	10	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—
Oddingley ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salwarpe ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stock & Bradley ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tibberton ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warndon ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	12	110	34	6	2	11	1	2	3	2

THE INCIDENCE OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING 1955 IS SHOWN IN THE
FOLLOWING TABLE.

		<i>Under One Year</i>	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	<i>Total cases notified</i>
1. Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
2. Measles	...	2	5	6	12	13	66	5	—	—	1	—	—	110
3. Whooping Cough	...	2	4	2	4	—	318	—	—	—	1	—	—	34
4. Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	6
5. Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
6. Dysentery	...	—	—	1	1	—	5	2	1	—	—	—	1	11
7. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
8. Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
9. Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
10. Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	...	7	10	9	17	17	102	8	1	5	3	2	2	183

Milk.

The Rural District Council are not responsible for the supervision of milk production which is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. They are responsible for the supervision of milk distribution however, and fourteen retailers were supplying milk in the area during 1955. Some of these distributors operate from premises outside the district in which case Supplementary licences are issued, instead of Principal Licences. The licences covered the following designations :—

Number of Retailers	....	....	....	14
Designation " Pasteurised "	....	....	....	14
" Sterilised "	....	....	....	3
" T.T. Pasteurised "	....	....	....	2

There are four Pasteurising plants in the district but " Pasteurisers" licences are issued by the County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority.

Ice-Cream.

Forty-one premises are registered for the sale or manufacture of Ice-cream under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. There are no large-scale producers in the district, but two premises use the cold-mix process. The remaining premises sell the pre-packed product only.

Tuberculosis, 1955.

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis during the year are shown below :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 and over....	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	8	6	1	—	—	—	—	—

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register during the year are as follows :—

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cases on the Register at 1st January, 1955	40	26	5	7
Additions to the Register during the year	8	6	1	—
Deductions from the Register during the year	3	—	2	—
Cases on the Register at 31st December, 1955	45	32	4	7

Meetings of the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire were held at the Shirehall, Worcester, quarterly.

This Committee endeavours to give extra help to needy tuberculosis patients and their families.

